



Department of Environmental Protection

McGilpin Road in Sturbridge Project Update for the Week of June 5, 2017

Residential Sampling

MassDEP is working with its contractor this week to line up re-sampling at 43 homes on McGilpin Road (these have all been previously sampled). This will be the third round of sampling at these residences by MassDEP. The first two sampling events were previously conducted between January and May of this year. Barring problems with access, sampling will take place the weeks of 6/19 through 6/30.

Direct Well Sampling

MassDEP is developing a plan to sample the raw water (directly in the well) of select residential wells on McGilpin Road. This week, we are reviewing available sampling data, well depths, and available well construction information to select the homes for direct well sampling and working with homeowners to obtain access agreements. We are also continuing to consult with the United States Geological Survey (USGS) to develop a sampling protocol that may provide additional information about the bedrock aquifer groundwater and source of lead.

Installation of Monitoring Wells

This week, MassDEP began reviewing property lines and working with staff attorneys to determine land ownership on parcels between McGilpin Road and the Southbridge Landfill. Once the correct owners have been identified, MassDEP will begin contacting property owners to obtain access agreements so that MassDEP staff can conduct a walkover and assess the physical accessibility, topography, and other limitations to conducting subsurface assessment, including geophysical survey and monitoring installation. We hope to have access agreements in place by the end of June.

Surface Water and Sediment Sampling

MassDEP plans to conduct surface water and sediment sampling at waterbodies located between the Southbridge landfill and McGilpin Road. This effort requires the same access agreements as described above. MassDEP anticipates surface water and sediment sampling will be performed before the end of the month, barring access issues.

Review of other potential sources

MassDEP has identified other properties that may warrant additional investigation. Specifically, two parcels on McGilpin Road have been described as old junkyards or as having buried debris. To date, MassDEP has conducted surficial investigations, including a magnetometer survey and ground penetrating radar survey at one property. MassDEP will continue to evaluate if further investigation of these parcels is needed, as additional information is collected and reviewed.